les action on membership reconsiders consolidation

\_emi-annual meeting last week in apolis, Minn., the Board of Diof the Consulting Engineers il (CEC) dealt with a wide range ics, including the possibility of idating with two other profesengineering associations, memp cligibility requirements and sional liability insurance.

in apparent softening of its stand June annual meeting (ENR 6/18 5), the CEC board passed a resolu--ctting forth CEC's interest in the sishment of a single, unified na-1 organization to represent the Ilting engineering profession. The nion, which passed 35 to 6, is inal to clarify CEC's position with reto a possible consolidation with American Institute of Consulting neers and the Professional Engis in Private Practice. By eliminata previous requirement that the c Consulting Engineers Council be in all deliberations, CEC appears er to reconvene merger talks.

embership requirements. Another or issue debated by the CEC board membership eligibility. Special emsis was placed on the status of coning engineering firms that have ged with or been acquired by conection or manufacturing interests. he California delegation got to the . lerlying issue by questioning CEC's hority to tell state associations what ir membership requirements should As a result, the entire issue of memship eligibility was tabled until the It annual meeting.

Professional liability in a worsening surance availability situation was ought into sharp focus by the recent nouncement that a popular liability rrier among engineers, the American otorists Insurance Co., Kemper Inrauce Group, Chicago, has notified ents that it will not renew profesmal coverage because of tremendous sses sustained.

A spokesman for Design Professionals isurance Co. (DPIC), San Francisco, ic formation of which was authorized y CEC last year (ENR 5/22/69 p. 49) nd which is now a separate corporaion, explained that DPIC's planned ofring of professional liability insurance onsulting engineers had been deayed. The delay was attributed to the

: hits some snagsprov@for@kessokiths A.E.proop\*\*@ppentotest Tile-Costs

> Congressional approval of a \$1.7-billion military construction authorization bill for the current fiscal year has made academic a controversial Department of Defense (DOD) attempt to introduce a form of price competition into the federal procurement of architectural and engineering services.

> Under pressure from a compromise bill worked out by a Senate-House conference committee, DOD last week decided to cancel its one-year test of priceestimated multiple proposals for A-E services. The test has been under heavy fire from A-E interests (ENR 9/24 p.9).

> The compromise bill, now awaiting President Nixon's signature, provides that "architect and engineering contracts, unless specifically authorized by Congress, shall continue to be awarded in accordance with presently established procedures, customs and practice." Historically, such contracts have been awarded on the basis of qualification with the fee negotiated.

However, in an attempt to monitor construction costs, the authorization bill does require the Secretary of Defense to report to Congress all projects where bids have exceeded the amounts authorized by 25%. It also directs the three military services to file semi-annual reports on all construction contracts not awarded on a competitive basis to the lowest bidder.

Regarding specific programs, Congress authorized \$188 million for construction of 7,600 new military family housing units and raised the average per-unit cost from \$21,000 to \$23,000.

The authorization approval sets the stage for an appropriation compromise when the post-election session convenes in November. The Senate appropriation bill, also passed last week, at \$2.1 billion, is \$61 million higher than the House counterpart approved last June. But the conference committee is expected to fund substantially all the projects authorized.

## Housing partnership makes first investment

The National Corporation for Housing Partnerships' (NCHP) first investment will be made in a 164-unit moderate-income apartment complex on Chicago's South Side.

The complex, to be called Lake Park Manor, will be constructed under the Section 236 interest subsidy program of the Housing and Urban Development Act. It will be jointly sponsored by NCHP and Interaction, Inc., a Chicago interracial development group.

NCHP is a quasi-public corporation created by Congress under the Housing Act of 1968 as a device for attracting large amounts of private money for investment in government subsidized housing (ENR 2/12 p.11). So far, 268 corporations, utilities, labor unions, banks and insurance companies have invested more then \$42 million in NCHP. This capital investment enables NCHP to share initial financial and equity risks with private developers, according to Carter Burgess, chairman and chief executive officer of NCHP.

NCHP has acquired a 23.7% ownership interest in Lake Park Manor with an equity investment of \$50,000. Other investors include Common-

local black neighborhood organization (\$10,000). A \$3,024,000-mortgage and iterim financing are now being arranged.

The contractor will be a joint venture of James McHugh Construction Co., and Bush Construction Co., a blackowned firm.

## Meany eyes teamsters, UAW

AFL-CIO President George Meany has taken another step toward the possible reaffiliation of the teamsters and the United Auto Workers (UAW).

Meany will meet with teamster leader Frank E. Fitzsimmons within the next two weeks. It will be his first official meeting with a teamster official since the union's expulsion from the federation in 1957.

The specific subject of the meeting is a California dispute with the teamsters. But like a meeting with UAW President Leonard Woodcock last summer, it is expected to open up new and official channels of communication between the two groups.

Meany has said he would like to see tiffering prospectus requiremen Approved fior Release 2002,0509 an CIA-RDF 86-00244 R000 3000 2002 4-6 w back

People's Power Development Corp., a in the AFL-CIO.